

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for reading from a recording medium a content which is stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and playing back the read content, the recording medium storing according to a specified format contents and management information of the contents, the data processing apparatus comprising:

a content processor that reads management information from the recording medium, and reads the content according to the management information from the recording medium to process the read content;

a search ~~searcher~~ section that, when the content processor reads a content, searches, for the content, out of a specified search range, which is defined according to the specified format as a range for storing contents to be reproduced, if the content to be read is managed by the management information but not present in the specified recording area;

a link information ~~setter-setting~~ section; and

a management information ~~storage storing~~ section—that stores the management information which is read from the recording medium, using an identification number specific to the recording medium, so that the management information can be managed,

wherein, when the content is found by the ~~search-searcher~~ section, the link information ~~setter-setting~~ section updates the link information for relating the recording area of the found content to the specified recording area so as to enable access to the content with the management information.

2. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the management information includes play list information for specifying playback sequence of contents, and track information including meta information relating to the contents.
3. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specified search range is a recording area in the recording medium.
4. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specified search range includes a recording area of a recording medium which is incorporated in the data processing apparatus.
5. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specified search range includes a recording area of a device which is connected to the data processing apparatus directly or through a network.
6. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a detachable recording medium.
7. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 6, further comprising: a data storage storing section that stores contents which conform to a specified standard format, wherein the content processor reads the content from the recording medium or the data storage storing section according to the management information to process the read content, and when

the content processor reads a content, the searcher search section-searches the recording medium or the data storage storing section for the content, if the content to be read is managed by the management information but not present in the specified recording area.

8. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the content is stored by priority in the recording medium, and after free area of the recording medium becomes less than a predetermined value, the content is stored in the data storage storing section, and the management information for managing the content stored in the recording medium and the data storage storing section is stored in the recording medium.

9. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 6,

wherein the content processor reads the content with reference to the management information stored in the management information storage storing section, and

the link information setter setting section-sets the link information on the management information storage storing section.

10. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the identification number specific to the recording medium which is stored in the management information storage storing section-is different from an identification number specific to a recording medium to be loaded into the data processing apparatus, the searcher search section and link information setter setting section-set the link information.

11. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the recording medium has a copyright protection function.

12. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the management information manages content ID which is identification information uniquely assigned to each content, and the searcher ~~search-section~~ searches for a content to be played back using the content ID.

13. (Previously Presented) A data processing method for reading from a recording medium a content which is stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and playing back the read content, the recording medium storing according to a specified format contents and management information of the contents, the data processing method comprising:

reading management information from the recording medium, and determining the content to be played back with reference to the read management information;

judging if the determined content exists in a specified recording area in the recording medium;

searching, out of a specified search range, which is defined according to the specified format as a range for storing contents to be reproduced, for the content, if the determined content does not exist in the specified recording area;

updating link information for relating the recording area of the found content to the specified recording area so that the content can be accessed with the management information, when the determined content is found; and

storing the management information which is read from the recording medium, using an identification number specific to the recording medium, so that the management information can be managed.

14. (Original) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the management information includes play list information for specifying playback sequence of the contents, and track information including meta information relating to the contents.

15. (Original) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range is a recording area in the recording medium.

16. (Original) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range includes a recording area of a recording medium which is incorporated in the data processing apparatus.

17. (Original) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range includes the recording area of a device which is connected to the data processing apparatus directly or through a network.

18. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 13, wherein the recording medium is a detachable recording medium.

19. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 18, wherein when the content is stored according to a specified format ~~not only~~ in the recording medium and, but also in a data storage storing section in the data processing apparatus, further comprising:

searching the recording medium or the data storage storing section for the determined content, if the determined content is managed by the management information but not present in the specified recording area.

20. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 19, further comprising:

storing the content by priority in the recording medium;

storing the content in the data storage storing section after free area of the recording medium becomes less than a predetermined value; and

storing management information for managing the contents stored in the recording medium and the data storage storing section in the recording medium.

21. (Previously Presented) The data processing method of claim 18, further comprising storing the management information read from the recording medium in the data processing apparatus, wherein determining the content determines the content to be played back with reference to the management information stored in the data processing apparatus, and determining the link information to the data processing apparatus.

22. (Original) The data processing method of claim 18, wherein the recording medium has unique identification information.

23. (Original) The data processing method of claim 22, wherein the recording medium has a copyright protection function.

24. (Original) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the management information manages content ID which is identification information uniquely assigned to each content, and the search step searches for the determined content using the content ID.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium on which a data processing program is recorded for reading from a recording medium a content which is stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and playing back the read content, the recording medium storing according to a specified format contents and management information of the contents, the program causing a computer to execute:

a management reading code segment for reading management information from the recording medium,

a determining code segment for determining the content to be played back with reference to the read management information;

a judging code segment for judging if the determined content exists in a specified recording area in the recording medium;

a search code segment for searching out of a specified search range, which is defined according to the specified format as a range for storing contents to be reproduced, for the content, if the determined content does not exist in the specified recording area;

a link setting code segment for updating link information for relating the recording area of the found content to the specified recording area so that the content can be accessed with the management information, when the determined content is found; and

a storing code segment for storing the management information which is read from the recording medium, using an identification number specific to the recording medium, so that the management information can be managed.

26. (Cancelled)